

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/EP2004/050324

International filing date (day/month/year)
18.03.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
21.03.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
D21F1/00, D21F7/08

Applicant
VOITH FABRICS PATENT GMBH

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**International application No.
PCT/EP2004/050324**JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 20 SEP 2005****Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

Box No. II Priority

1. ☒ The following document has not been furnished:
- ☒ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(a)).
 - ☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43*bis*.1 and 66.7(b)).
- Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.
2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43*bis*.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement
- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------|
| Novelty (N) | Yes: Claims | 1-12 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Inventive step (IS) | Yes: Claims | 1-12 |
| | No: Claims | |
| Industrial applicability (IA) | Yes: Claims | 1-12 |
| | No: Claims | |
2. Citations and explanations
- see separate sheet

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(SEPARATE SHEET)**

PCT/EP2004/050324

Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

- 1 Reference is made to the following document:
D1: US-B-6 455 448 (DAVENPORT FRANCIS L ET AL) 24 September 2002
(2002-09-24)
- 2 The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior-art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and discloses (cf. especially column 6, lines 8-67) a method of making an industrial fabric comprising the following steps:
 - applying a powder onto the surface of a fabric,
 - melting the powder such that the powder forms a layer on the fabric surface.

The subject-matter of claim 1 therefore differs from this known method in that

- the powder is a radiation-curable powder and, as a further step,
- radiation is directed at said surface layer so as to cure the constituent material of said coating layer.

The problem to be solved by the present invention may therefore be regarded as providing an alternative method of making an industrial fabric.

There is no indication in D1 which would lead the skilled person to consider modifying the method according to D1 in the above-mentioned way and thereby arriving to the method according to claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 appears to satisfy the requirements of Article 33 PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step.

- 3 The subject-matter of the independent claim 2 relates to a method of repairing a damaged industrial fabric comprising essentially the same steps as claim 1. Therefore, claim 2 appears to satisfy the requirements of Article 33 PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step as well.
- 4 Dependent claims 2-12 add further features to the independent claims and as such they also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and

**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
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International application No.

PCT/EP2004/050324

inventive step.

5 The industrial applicability (Art. 33(4) PCT) of the present invention is evident.
